

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Rohm & Haas (PA2)

**5000 Richmond Street
Philadelphia, PA 19137
Congressional District 3
EPA ID #: PAD077883346**

**Site Property Area: Approximately 70 Acres
Last Updated 6/30/2005**

Current Progress at the Site

Active groundwater remediation has been ongoing in the vicinity of a contaminated plume that has traveled beneath several residences on the south side of Bridge Street. The most prevalent contaminants in the plume are ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene. Rohm and Haas installed a well recovery system in 1994, a soil vapor extraction system in 1996 and a 250-foot groundwater recovery trench in 1998. Rohm and Haas is currently evaluating whether groundwater movement in the area of the plume can be controlled solely by the recovery trench. A chronological look at the plume shows that plume has been steadily shrinking in size.

The Rohm and Haas Philadelphia Plant achieved a “Yes” determination for the Current Human Exposures Under Control Environmental Indicator (EI) in June 2005. The Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control EI determination is currently being evaluated pending the results of a groundwater model sensitivity analysis to determine the potential impact of groundwater discharge to both the Frankford Inlet and Delaware River.

Site Description

The Rohm and Haas Company’s Philadelphia Plant is divided into an East Production Area, West Production Area and Former Warehouse Property located along the Delaware River in the Port Richmond Section of Philadelphia. Corrective Action at the Former Warehouse Property has been managed under PADEP’s Land Recycling (Act II) Program and is not currently included in the work being done under EPA’s RCRA Corrective Action Program.

Historical activities in the East Production Area have included chemical manufacturing operations, materials and product storage, steam and electricity production, wastewater management, and both hazardous and non-hazardous waste management. Rohm and Haas has operated chemical processing at the facility since 1920, although chemical manufacturing is believed to have begun at the site as early as the 1700's. Recent manufacturing operations include solvent recovery, Tritons manufacturing, Ion Exchange Resins, Dithane Manufacturing.

Some of the chemicals associated with these manufacturing processes include surface active agents, DDT, mancozeb, octhilinone, dicofol dinocap, chloro methyl isothiazolin, sulfuric acid, 1,2-dichloropropane, 1,2-dichloroethane, chlorobenzene, toluene, amines, acids, methylene chloride and zinc. The only active operation in the East Production Area currently is a maintenance shop. Rohm and Haas plans to move the maintenance shop to the West Production Area in the near future. Rohm and Haas is also planning to demolish the remaining structures in the East Production Area.

The West Production Area also has industrial roots that go back to the early 1700's, when tanneries moved to that location from Center City Philadelphia. Manufacturing operations in this area have included the production of herbicides, pesticides, biocides, ion exchange resins, alkylphenols, surfactants, specialty monomers, amberchrome precious metals recovery, and orthochrom leather tanning products. In recent years, Rohm and Haas manufacturing operations in the West Production Area were focused on Ion Exchange Resin and Goal herbicide production.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Institutional Controls

The need for institutional controls at the facility has not yet been determined.

Government Contact

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm